

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dispensing structure for mounting at an opening defined in a generally planar wall portion of a container to accommodate the discharge of the contents from the interior of the container, said dispensing structure comprising:

5 (I) a multi-piece fitment adapted to be mounted to said container, said fitment including

10 (A) a base that has

(1) a flange adapted to be sealingly bonded to said container planar wall portion around said opening, and

15 (2) a hollow projection that

(i) extends from said flange,

(ii) defines at least a portion of a dispensing passage for establishing communication between the exterior and interior of said container, and

20 (iii) defines an external thread, and

(B) a valve carrier for mounting to said fitment base hollow projection and having

25 (1) an internally threaded skirt that is adapted to be threadingly engaged with said hollow projection external thread, and

(2) a unitary spout that extends from said skirt and that defines a portion of said dispensing passage; and

30 (II) a flexible valve that

(A) is disposed within said valve carrier secured across said dispensing passage, and

35 (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said container.

2. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 1 in which

said fitment base hollow projection is adapted to extend through said container opening; and

5 said fitment base flange is adapted to be secured to said container planar wall portion on the interior side of said planar wall portion.

3. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 1 in which said dispensing structure includes a removable and disposable cover extending from said container to define a hermetically sealed volume around the part of said fitment projecting beyond said planar wall portion, said cover comprising an integral extension of material which defines said container, said dispensing structure further including a weakened, frangible connection where said cover extends from said container to accommodate removal of said cover by breaking said frangible connection.

20 4. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 1 in which

said fitment base flange is annular and is adapted to be disposed on the interior of said container sealingly secured to said container planar wall portion;

25 said fitment base hollow projection has an outer annular end; and

30 said dispensing structure further includes a membrane that is releasably secured across said outer annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said dispensing passage defined by said base hollow projection.

35 5. A dispensing structure for mounting in an opening of a thin walled, flexible, collapsible

container to accommodate the discharge of the contents from the interior of the container, said dispensing structure comprising:

5 a fitment that is (1) adapted to be disposed in said opening to extend from said container, (2) has a peripheral sealing surface that is sealingly bondable to said container around said opening, and (3) defines a dispensing passage for establishing communication between the exterior and interior of said container; and

10 a flexible valve that (1) is disposed within said fitment across said fitment dispensing passage, and (2) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said

15 container.

6. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 5 in which

20 said dispensing structure is adapted for mounting in an opening of a container which has the form of a collapsible pouch defined by at least two opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define said opening;

25 said fitment has a hollow base that has two lateral ends and that defines two generally oppositely facing walls which converge and terminate at each of said two lateral ends, each said wall defining an exterior surface portion for being sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said opening, said hollow base defining at least a portion of said dispensing passage; and

30 said fitment includes a spout that (1) extends from said hollow base, and (2) defines at least a portion of said dispensing passage; and

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said valve includes a flange sealingly secured to said spout within said dispensing passage.

7. The dispensing structure in accordance
5 with claim 6 in which said fitment base is molded from a
thermoplastic material that is adapted to be heat sealed
to said web portions wherein each said web portion
includes a layer of foil covered on the container
interior with a layer of thermoplastic material suitable
10 for being heat sealed to said fitment base walls.

8. The dispensing structure in accordance
with claim 6 in which each said fitment base wall
defines three, spaced-apart, parallel ribs.

9. The dispensing structure in accordance
15 with claim 8 in which each said rib has a generally
triangular transverse cross section.

10. The dispensing structure in accordance
20 with claim 6 in which
said hollow base has a generally flat deck;
said spout extends above said deck;
said spout includes an inner annular shoulder
25 defining a frustoconical seating surface; and
said valve has a flange defining a mounting
surface for sealingly engaging said spout seating
surface.

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11. The dispensing structure in accordance
with claim 5 in which
said fitment has an outer annular end; and
said dispensing structure further includes a
membrane that is releasably secured across said outer
annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said

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dispensing passage defined by said base hollow projection.

12. A package comprising:

5 a container with an upper end defined at least by

- (A) two generally parallel, spaced-apart sidewalls,
- (B) two generally parallel, spaced-apart end walls joining said sidewalls,
- 10 (C) a top wall joining said sidewalls and one of said end walls, and
- (D) and a generally planar corner wall that
 - (1) is disposed at an oblique angle to said top wall and end walls,
 - (2) joins said top wall, said sidewalls, and one of said end walls, and
 - (3) defines an opening to the container interior;

15 a hollow fitment sealingly mounted to said corner wall at said opening and defining a dispensing passage in communication with the interior of said container;

20 a flexible valve that

- (A) is disposed within said hollow fitment across said fitment dispensing passage, and
- 25 (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said container;

30 a removable and disposable cover extending from said container over the part of said fitment projecting beyond said planar corner wall to define a hermetically sealed volume around the part of said fitment projecting beyond said planar corner wall; and

35 releasable attachment means for sealingly attaching said cover to said container.

13. The package in accordance with claim 12
in which

said end walls, sidewalls, and top wall each
comprises a web of material;

5 said cover includes an integral extension of
said material from said top wall, said sidewalls, and
one of said end walls beyond said planar corner wall;
and

10 said releasable attachment means includes
weakened, frangible regions along edges of said cover
adjacent said planar corner wall.

14. The package in accordance with claim 13
in which said frangible regions include partial
15 perforations in said extension of said material along
said edges of said top wall, said sidewalls, and one of
said end walls.

20 15. The package in accordance with claim 12
in which said cover has the configuration of a hollow,
triangular prism.

25 16. The package in accordance with claim 12
in which

said fitment includes an annular flange heat
sealed to said planar corner wall on the interior of
said container;

30 said fitment has an outer annular end; and
a membrane is releasably secured across said
outer annular end to sealingly occlude said dispensing
passage.

17. A package comprising:

35 a collapsible pouch defined by at least two,
opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together

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adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define an opening to the interior region; ~~passage~~

0 a fitment defining a dispensing ~~package~~ and 5 having a hollow base that has two lateral ends and that defines two generally oppositely facing walls which converge and terminate at each of said two lateral ends, each said wall defining an exterior surface portion sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said 10 opening, said fitment hollow base defining at least a portion of said dispensing passage through said fitment, said fitment including a spout that (A) extends from said hollow base, and (B) defines at least a portion of said dispensing passage;

15 a flexible valve that (A) is disposed within said hollow fitment across said fitment dispensing passage, and (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior 20 of said pouch; and

25 a removable and disposable cover formed as extensions of at least two of said pouch web portions which enclose said fitment spout and which have peripheral margins sealed together to define a hermetically sealed volume around said fitment spout.

26. The package in accordance with claim 17 in which said cover includes weakened, frangible regions along edges of said cover adjacent said pouch.

30 27. The package in accordance with claim 17 in which 35 said pouch web portions each has a generally rectangular configuration generally defining three right angle corners and one mitered corner; and

said fitment is disposed in said opening at
said mitered corner.

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~~20.~~ *Package*
5 The ~~dispensing structure~~ in accordance
with claim *17* in which

said fitment spout has an outer annular end;
and

10 said dispensing structure further includes a
membrane that is releasably secured across said outer
annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said
~~spout~~
dispensing passage defined by said ~~base hollow~~
3 projection.

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